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LETTER DATED 8 NOVEMBER 1993 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Today at 8 a.m. New York time a delegation headed by Monsignor Vinko Puljic the Archbishop of Sarajevo travelling under the protection of UNPROFOR on a sanctioned mission of peace to Vares was intercepted in Rajlovac near Sarajevo by Serbian forces. Once again, UNPROFOR relented and under threat allowed the armoured personnel carrier transporting the delegation to be opened.

Two Bosnian escorts assigned to the delegation, Jozo Andjic and Ferdo Dejanovic (both Bosnian Croats), were taken hostage by the Serbians. The rest of the delegation consisting of four Catholic priests were forcibly returned to Sarajevo. The delegation was on its way to Vares in order to instill harmony and to encourage local Croats to return to their homes.

This incident is all too similar to the murder of our former deputy Prime Minister Mr. Hakija Turajlic, while under the protection of UNPROFOR. We had hoped and believed that UNPROFOR and the international community would not permit such an event to be repeated. We hold UNPROFOR directly responsible for the two men who were under their protection and taken hostage. We also hold UNPROFOR accountable for the failure of this peace mission and potential negative consequences in the delicate situation at Vares.

In order to respond to this matter with appropriate urgency, in view of the lives at stake and the consequences of the credibility and integrity of the United Nations mandated forces in the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, at the instructions of our Government, we request an emergency session of the United Nations Security Council.

May I ask for your kind assistance in circulating this letter as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Muhamed SACIRBEY
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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